



THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

## The Return of Swift Foxes

Assessment form for September/October 2018 "Searching for Swift Foxes" and July/August 2004 "The Swift Fox's Speedy Return"

1. Who is the author of the article, "Searching for Swift Foxes"?
  - Brandi Skone
  - Marla Prell
  - Amy Zimmerman
  - Martha Williams
  - Tom Dickson
2. Who is the biologist collecting data on swift foxes in the article, "Searching for Swift Foxes"?
  - Brandi Skone
  - Marla Prell
  - John Kuntz
  - Martha Williams
3. According to the article, "The Swift Fox's Speedy Return," why did swift fox populations decline in the early 1900s? (select all that apply)
  - Ranchers killing them to protect livestock
  - Indiscriminate trapping and poisoning of wolves and coyotes
  - Loss of large prairie ungulates
  - Loss of prairie habitat
  - Poisoning of ground squirrels and prairie dogs
  - Competition from coyotes and red foxes
4. Based on the two provided articles, select the true statements about swift foxes. (select all that apply)

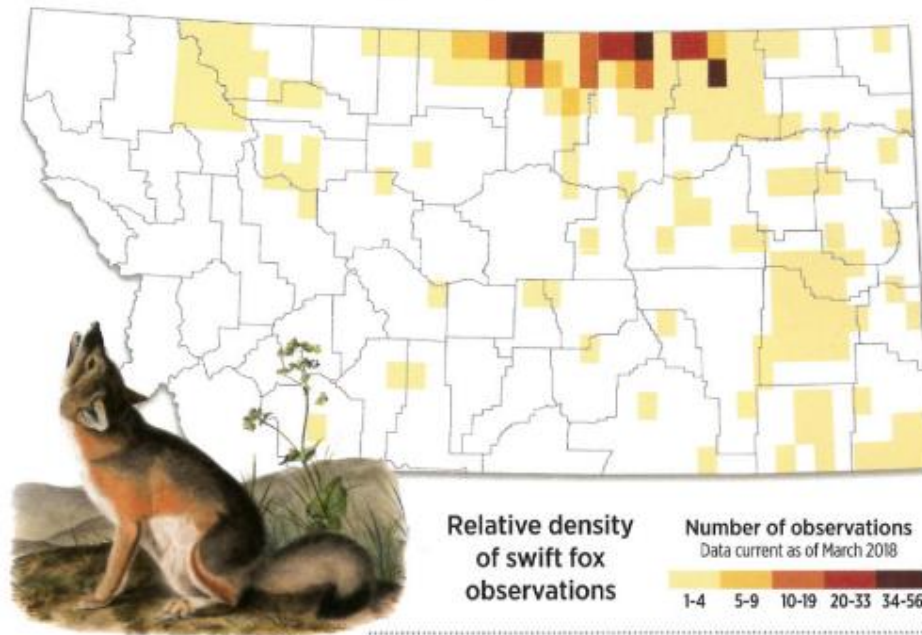
- They can sprint 40 miles per hour
  - They are named for the person who discovered them, John Swift
  - They are the smallest canid in North America
  - They were declared locally extinct in Montana in 1969
  - As of 2014-2015 as many as 1000 swift foxes have been reestablished in Montana
  - They are closely related to the kit fox
  - Amy Zimmerman documented the swift fox's official return to Montana in 1996
5. Based on the two provided articles, biologists believe that what kills most swift foxes today in Montana?
- Wolves
  - Hunters
  - Disease
  - Coyotes
6. Based on the two provided articles, which of the following strategies are used by biologists to collect data on swift foxes? (select all that apply)
- Radio collars
  - Tissue samples
  - Sightings from the public
  - By trapping and killing as many as possible
7. According to the article, "The Swift Fox's Speedy Return," Amy Zimmerman was required to collect what data about swift foxes to confirm that a resident population was residing in Montana? (select all that apply)
- Distribution and population density
  - Den site locations
  - Survival rates
  - Photographic proof
8. Based on the two provided articles, how much has the swift fox's population grown between 2000 and 2014?
- From 211 to at least 1,000
  - From 196 to 211

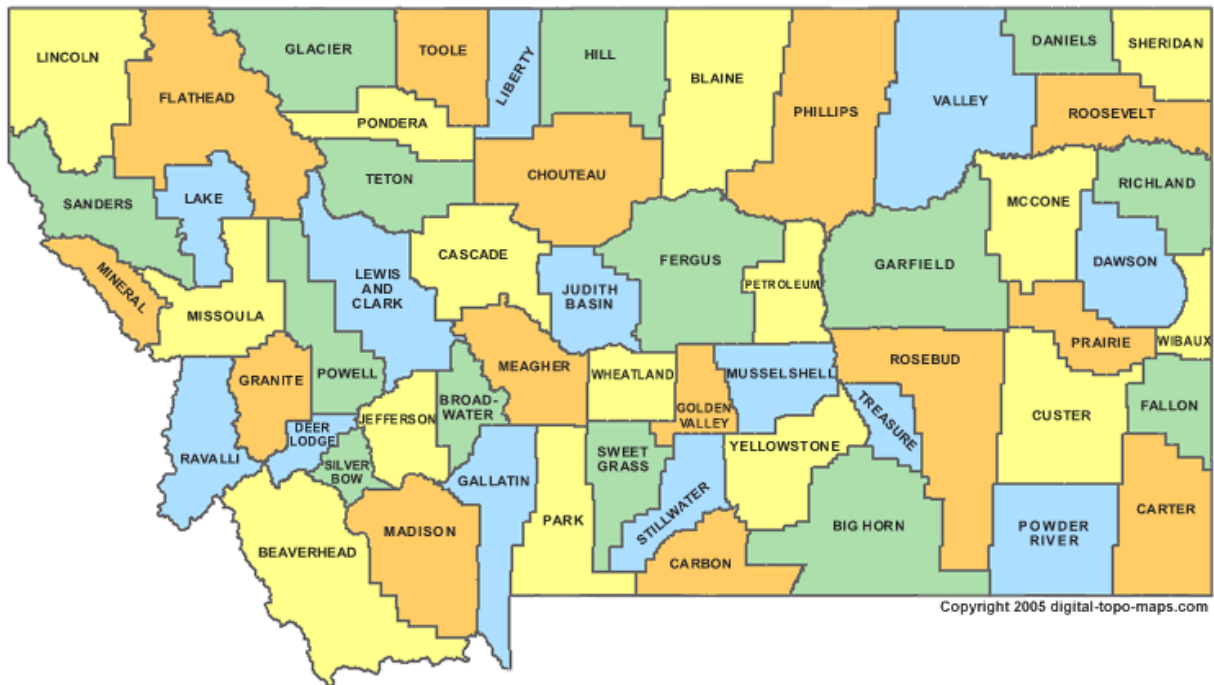
- From 123 to 942
  - The articles do not list the swift fox's population
9. What is the difference between a red fox and a swift fox? (select all that apply)
- A swift fox is about half the weight of a red fox when full grown
  - The swift fox has luminous yellow almond shape eyes; red foxes don't
  - The tip of a swift fox's tail is black; the red fox's tail has a white tip
  - The swift fox is a deep red in color; the red fox is lighter red

Use the two maps provided to answer questions 10 through 14 (MTSSCS.3, RH.6-8.7)

## WHERE ARE SWIFT FOXES?

After releases of captive-bred swift foxes in southern Canada from 1983 to 1997, the predators spread south into Montana, where they had previously been declared locally extinct. As biologists broaden their search and people increasingly report sightings, swift foxes are showing up where they haven't been recorded in nearly a century.





10. What does the swift fox map tell us?

- Where the Montana county boundaries are located and their name
- The exact numbers of swift foxes in Montana
- The relative density of swift fox sightings in Montana and where they are located geographically as of 2018
- How to find swift foxes

11. What counties listed have had no swift fox sightings? (select all that apply)

- Lincoln
- Sanders
- Beaverhead
- Carter
- Valley
- Blaine
- Glacier
- Park
- Gallatin
- Stillwater

12. What counties listed have had only between 1-4 sightings? (select all that apply)

- Lincoln
- Sanders
- Beaverhead
- Carter
- Valley
- Blaine
- Glacier
- Park
- Gallatin
- Stillwater

13. What counties listed have had as many as 34-56 sightings? (select all that apply)

- Lincoln
- Sanders
- Beaverhead
- Carter
- Valley
- Blaine
- Glacier
- Park
- Gallatin
- Stillwater

**Get your boots on the ground and dig deeper!**

Answer the following questions by doing additional research and writing about your findings.

1. Do your research: Can you find any connections to other wildlife species that have rapidly increased in population after almost disappearing from Montana? Consider grizzly bears, bald eagles, or wolves. What are the similarities and differences in the challenges that Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) faces in bringing these wild animals back to healthy populations? (W.8.2, W.8.4, W.8.5, W.8.6, W.8.7, WHST.11-12.2)
2. Research and write about it (argumentative) Historically, swift foxes fed on the remains of bison and elk out on the prairie that were killed by wolves. But as bison disappeared from the prairie, and elk were pushed into the mountains, these important food sources for swift foxes disappeared. Also, swift foxes' natural habitats of grasslands were turned into farm fields and broken up as oil and road development increased. Today, swift foxes are more likely to be killed by vehicles because they try to avoid coyotes, which shy away from traffic. Should swift foxes be hunted? Support your findings with at least two pieces of textual evidence from your research and this article. (RI.8.1, W.8.1, W.8.4, W.8.5, W.8.6, W.8.7, WHST.11-12.1)



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